

[illegible]

## Ham Radio News from Central Indiana

**Volume X No. 11      November 1994**

## October test upgrades

|                    |        |              |          |
|--------------------|--------|--------------|----------|
| Frank Bathory      | WD9DWQ | N.Vernon     | Advanced |
| Julie Moulton      |        | Shelbyville  | Tech     |
| Larry Noonan       |        | Whiteland    | Tech +   |
| Miranda Osborne    |        | Mitchell     | Tech     |
| Dean Strietelmeier | KF9XW  | Indianapolis | Extra    |

(Dean is a member of the Mid-State Club)

## FCC "goofs" on Tech Licenses

## Techs should check their license for an error

**If you hold a Technician class license issued before March 16, 1991, then you automatically are a Technician Licensee with HF privileges (a "Tech Plus").**

In some instances the FCC has processed the renewal or modification of such a Tech Plus license it has mistakenly issued a "Technician" (no-code) license. (Since June 8, 1994, new and renewed Tech Plus licenses have been clearly labeled as such).

**If this has happened to you, do the following:**

**Write to the FCC, explaining the situation, including your current**

**license status, with effective date. Include copies of both your "before" and "after" licenses.**

**If you no longer have either a copy or the original of your previous license, say so in your letter.**

**Send this to FCC, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245 (or fax at 717-337-1541). Keep copies of all your correspondence with the FCC.**

Expect the matter to take four to six weeks to be resolved. In the meantime, you may continue to exercise "Tech Plus" privileges.

from the ARRL Letter

**VEC's go to a Last VE testing computer! session of 1994**

Both the ARRL VEC and W5YI VEC are testing electronic filing software from the FCC.

Once any bugs are worked out the FCC expects to provide the final version of the software to all '8 VEC's, the next step in the Commission's computerization of licensing. from the ARRL Letter.

**from the ARRL Letter.**

The local VE testing team will wind up testing for 1994 at the EOC on November 19th.

It has been their policy to avoid the holiday season and the weather of January and February.

**So, if you're ready, test this month, or use the time to prepare for March when testing resumes.**

from the ARRL Letter

# FCC says "no" for code-less senior citizens

The FCC has denied a petition that proposed exemptions from Morse code exams for people age 65 and older.

Guy Matzinger, KB7PNQ, argued in his petition that old age results in diminished faculties, and equated those people 65 and older with the severely disabled in terms of passing a CW exam. He proposed the exemption for speeds above 5 WPM.

The FCC said that similar petitions had been denied in the past, because the current Amateur Radio license structure is based on "the desires of the amateur service community," gleaned from thousands of comments on previous petitions.

Although the petition got the usual public notice, the FCC said it received no comments on it.

Matzinger is a 67-year-old Technician class licensee who lives in Cheney, Washington.

# BENS WEATHER TIPS

By Ben Woods Channel 8 TV

I hope you have been enjoying the relatively mild weather this fall. By this point of the autumn we've usually had some snow or at the very least a hard freeze. The average date for the first snow in Indianapolis is November 8th. Not that I'm complaining mind you! Of course, November is a very changeable month and snow, sleet, and freezing rain can occur any day now.

Most of the first half of this month has been fairly warm and uneventful. October 1994 was quite dry. The fifth driest in Indianapolis in the last 50 years. Many areas could still use some rain despite a rather wet start to this month. Last month only 0.86" inches of rain fell compared to the normal of 2.63". Monthly temperatures for last month were closer to normal. We averaged 57 degrees (while the normal is 54.7).

The outlook for this month from the National Weather Service calls for slightly above normal temperatures and above normal precipitation.

There have been many calls into the WISH-TV Weather Department wanting to know what kind of winter we are going to have. We're happy to get the next four days right, so I'm hesitant to take a stab at

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the next four months. Of course it will be cold and snowy at times this winter (it always is), but long range predictions (even those in the Old Farmer's Almanac) are rarely accurate.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!!



### Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

Post Office Box 836 Franklin, In. 46131

Club Repeater: 146.835

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets at 8:00 AM the third saturday of each month in the Johnson County Law Enforcement Bldg. on Hospital Road in Franklin, In. All are welcome to attend.

For membership information call Mac, NV9K at (317) 736-6320

President: Randy Shake KC9LC

V. President: Dave Reneau AA9KT

Secretary: Marilyn Parton N9TUK

Treasurer: Mac McCarty NV9K

Editor: Mac McCarty NV9K

RACES: Joe Vergara KA9ZPA

ARES: Vernon Gill N9QBO

Activities: Jack Parker NT9J

Rptr. Trustee: Dave Julian WB9YIG

Weather: Ben Woods Channel 8

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JOHNSON COUNTY  
MARC  
RACES  
QSO  
PARTY

It was called the RACES QSO Party. Saturday October 22nd RACES teams fanned out across Indiana to set up and operate their stations under emergency conditions. The five hour simulated emergency exercise was designed to test the equipment and organizational skills of each RACES member.

Points were scored for operating from the field as well as the county emergency operations center. The warm fall day was perfect for setting up operations in state parks and other remote locations.

According to state RACES director Dave Crockett, WB9ZCE, the exercise was designed so that every RACES unit would operate simplex on 2-meters, 6-meters, 70-centimeters plus 40 and 80 meters. Everyone was encouraged to test their digital modes of communications, too.

Johnson county RACES director Joe Vergara, KA9ZPA, wired his pickup truck to operate under mobile conditions. While cruising the county he successfully contacted several stations on 40 meters outside of Indiana, but had little luck in making 6 and 2 meter contacts. Vernie Parton, AA9LR, assisted Joe while operating mobile.

At the Johnson county EOC Vernon Gill, N9QBO; Dave Julian,

WB9YIG; and Jack Parker, NT9J spent the morning working several 40 meter contacts. They reported having better success contacting stations on 2-meters simplex.

Points were scored for making contacts with RACES teams in Decatur, Marion, Lawrence, Brown and Morgan counties. Dave Reneau, AA9KT, headed up the afternoon EOC operation. Other RACES members that participated were Gerald Bowser, N9TUL and Bob DeSpain, WB5VZT.

Several technical problems came up during the exercise. Areas of improvement call for instruction sheets with operating procedures to be made for each piece of radio equipment. It was also determined that the RACES EOC operation needed a 6-meter base antenna and a dual band 2/70cm antenna so we can operate 2-meter radios and a 70cm radio simultaneously.

It was also discovered that the 40-meter section of the R7 antenna mounted on the jail roof has been knocked off frequency. Plans call for the installation of an 80-meter dipole antenna too.

Despite the low number of contacts most participants felt the exercise was a success in that it pointed out areas of the operation that need to be improved before the next real disaster.

If you have any suggestions for improvements contact Joe Vergara, Bill Brinkman, Vernon Gill or one of the MARC club officers. State RACES officials said plans are being formulated for a similar winter emergency exercise.



## THE GOBLIN PATROL

Hams from four counties converged on Johnson county Halloween night for the annual Goblin Patrol. This is the sixth year that amateur radio operators have worked with the Johnson County Sheriff's department to help curb vandalism and provide a safe Trick or Treat environment throughout the county.

Bill Brinkman, KA9ZMU, was net control for the October 30th net. Bill said he was especially pleased with the help provided by club and non-club hams from the surrounding counties both nights. "They went out where I told them to go and did a really good job." Bill said he was disappointed that only a few Johnson county based hams chose to help with the two night patrol.

Keith Cahoon, K9PDI, was net controller for the Monday night Goblin patrol. All communications were handled from the EOC communications room in Franklin. The 2-meter net controllers worked closely with the sheriff dispatchers located in the next room.

Nearly thirty hams participated in the two night project. Thanks to all of those who helped: K9PDI, KA9ZMU, NV9K, KB9DWU, N9INT, N9UTJ, N9HZX, KB9AWS, WB9YIG, KA9ZPA, N9IMP, WB9L, KC9LC, KA9OOH, N9NZI, N9PFZ, N9FWF, W9WTF, KA9MUU, KA9PPG, WA9XDO, KA9KAI, WA9RDF, and N9MEW.



\*\*\* Notice in a safari park in Kenya: "Visitors who throw litter into the crocodile pit will be asked to retrieve it."

\*\*\* Did you hear about the snake charmer who married the undertaker? They have towels marked "Hiss" and "Hearse."

\*\*\* Husband, wearing apron, to ailing wife in bed: "That loud crash you just heard in the kitchen is nature's way of saying, *Get well soon.*"

\*\*\* Newspaper ad: "Cross-country skis for sale. Like new. Used only 3 times, mostly while lying down."

\*\*\* Newspaper ad: "Handyman- I can do anything your husband can do, only I'll do it now!"

\*\*\* He was a paratrooper and spent three years climbing down trees he never climbed up.

\*\*\* I wasn't a hero in the army. I have the only medal for extreme caution under cover.

\*\*\* Children are a great comfort in your old age, and they can help you get there faster too!

\*\*\* He was a real strong man. He lifted an elephant with one finger. But it took him twenty years to find an elephant with one finger.

\*\*\* It was cold last winter. The termites didn't have to chew. They just let their teeth chatter and leaned forward.

\*\*\* He had a terrible day at work. The computer broke down and he had to think all day!

\*\*\* One politician is a real considerate man. He recently went all around his district and visited every Ghetto golf club.

\*\*\* A court is a weird place. They lock up the Jury and let the prisoner go home.

\*\*\* How about the one-fingered pickpocket? All he could steal was Lifesavers.

\*\*\* Never go to a dentist who's had his office soundproofed.

\*\*\* Dieting? You can lose food through acupuncture. The stuff leaks out!

\*\*\* A little girl asked her father, "Daddy, before you married Mommy, who told you how to drive?"

\*\*\* The dumb pharmacist quit his job because he couldn't get the little bottles in the typewriter.

\*\*\* People who think they know everything really bug those of us who do.

\*\*\* Then there was the Self-service massage parlor.

\*\*\* A successful man is a guy who works like the dickens to become rich, and then spends the rest of his life sitting on the veranda of a sanitarium looking at the healthy poor people strolling by.

\*\*\* Florida is flat. In fact, the center of the Orlando Magic basketball team is the highest point of elevation.

\*\*\* When the farm prices say, "Slaughter cows weak," it doesn't mean that some cows are taking it worse than others.

\*\*\* My cuckoo clock is broken-all it does is come out and shrug!

\*\*\* Why do men take up a life of crime when there are so many legal ways of being dishonest?

\*\*\* The busboys in the Vegas hotels look so important. Why not? A week ago they were customers!

\*\*\* All the world loves a lover except people who are waiting to use the phone.

\*\*\* There's so much nudity in films this year that the Oscar for Best Costume Design will probably go to a dermatologist!

\*\*\* When you dodge a car you're a pedestrian. Dodge taxes, and you're a businessman. Dodge responsibility, you're an executive. Dodge everything-you're a politician!

\*\*\* The Real Estate agent says, "Would you like to see our model home?" The answer: "Sure, but I'd like to take her to dinner first."

\*\*\* Many years ago, New York was the site of a caveman colony. One of the cavemen invented the wheel. Two days later somebody stole the hubcaps.





# Visit to Mecca

By Jack Parker, NT9J

On a recent visit to see my wife's brother in Massachusetts I discovered that Interstate 84 takes you through Hartford, Conn. Located just south of Hartford are two of the country's greatest broadcast entities.

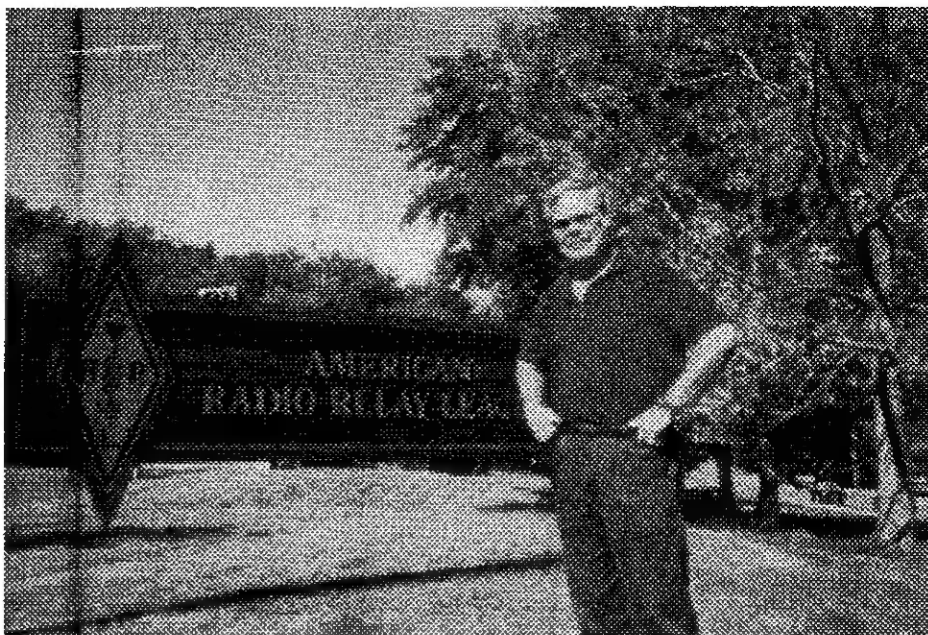
At one point along the way you can exit and head west to Bristol, headquarters for ESPN the sports broadcasting giant. Or you can turn right and visit the headquarters for amateur radio in Newington. After little thought I took the right way and headed east.

Newington is a neat little town. The rolling hills give way to tree lined streets with quaint New England style homes. Fortunately for us it's fall and the trees are awash in brilliant fall colors.

It isn't hard to find the ARRL headquarters. Just follow Main street north off the interstate through a quiet neighborhood up to 225 Main Street. There you will find a small one story house with three huge towers and lots of antennas. Behind it is the building that houses the offices and staff for QST magazine.

We missed the tour through the ARRL complex. It was a Saturday afternoon and they were closed. I suspect they were all home raking leaves.

On the other side of the parking lot, overlooking Main street, is the original W1AW radio station. It's open seven days a week. On this day Al, AA1DO, was the engineer in charge. Al's a ham who gets paid to greet visitors and tune the equipment.



After signing the guest register, Al showed us the main operating station. The first thing I noticed was a wall of HF equipment protected by sliding glass doors. There were seven Harris commercial brand transmitters lined up in a row just waiting to broadcast the daily menu of ARRL bulletins and CW practice.

That's right! No Icom, Yaesu or Kenwood radios here. Boy, was I surprised! Al explained that the consumer brand of radios can't handle the 100% duty cycle. "When we go into the teletype cycle we key 100% power for an hour." Al said, "The consumer brand radios aren't designed for that." He says the station normally transmits on all the HF bands from 10 thru 160 meters.

Across the room from the Harris radios I did find three fully equipped radio stations for visitors to use. At the controls of station number one was Massachusetts native Rick Langless, KB1BIC. Rick was down from Springfield getting ready to work some novice CW on 15 meters. By request, Al

patched him into a set of beams.

"Being a novice, I find when operators hear W1AW there's no problem with QSO's." But Rick cautions, "When they hear those call letters you'll work pileups for three hours."

Rick says he can't afford his own equipment yet so he has been visiting almost every weekend to operate from W1AW. "They have a good set up here," he says, "and the engineers are very helpful."

According to Rick, the ARRL headquarters gives visitors a great tour. He says they'll show you the amateur radio museum, the magazine area, printups, QSL cards and the labs used for testing new equipment. Tours are available weekdays during normal business hours.

If you plan to visit the ARRL HQ make sure you bring a copy of your amateur radio license. That's the first requirement for using one of the visitor operating stations. My other recommendation would be to visit during October. The natives are right; there is nothing like New England in the fall!

## Smoke: culprit of ham problem

This discovery might be more profound than the recent work done on dark suckers (light bulbs). As I was working on a solid state device the other day the realization of a basic truth came over me. It was so simple! So obvious! Why didn't I see it before?

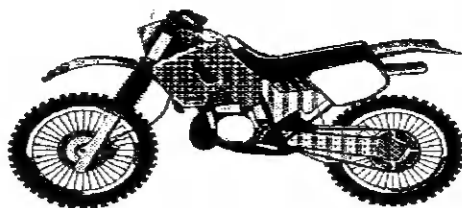
I discovered how ICs work, because every time you let the smoke out on an IC, it stops working. Of course! Smoke makes all things electrical work!

Remember the last time smoke escaped from your voltage regulator? Didn't it quit working? I sat and smiled like an idiot as more of the truth dawned. It's the wiring harness that carries the smoke from one device to another, and when the harness springs a leak, it lets the smoke out of everything at once, and then nothing works.

The starter motor requires large quantities of smoke to operate properly and that's why the wire going to it is so large. If improvements in wiring are to be achieved, we are going to have to find a way to keep smoke from leaking much the same as we do for air in tires!

Two archaeologists were telling each other of their experiences in digging. One said, "I excavated a city ten thousand years old and found pieces of wire, which proves that they knew about communication by wires!"

The other one, not to be outdone said, "I also excavated a city ten thousand years old and did not find any wires, which proves that they knew about communicating by wireless!" - the Squelch Tale, Chicago FM Club.



## Ham on a bike

By John McFadzean, W6TRP

Amateur radio and motorcycling have been two of my favorite hobbies for a long time. Some years ago I decided to combine the activities and install a two meter radio on one of my bikes.

The idea may not have been a "first", however, it could have been one of the first motorcycle mobiles to hit the streets.

After a few hours of installing the radio, mounting a mike and earphone in the helmet, and mounting a convenient push-to-talk button on the handlebars, I was ready to make a test run.

I asked my wife, Shirley, who is a licensed ham, but never did like the dangers of motorcycling, to listen to my test transmissions as I cruised around a few blocks from home.

Returning a few minutes later I asked, "Well, how does it sound?" "Just great!", she replied. "Now you can make your own call for an ambulance!"

## Do hams have a problem with their image?

By Tony Musero, K3UKW

I am very interested in the use of the words "ham" and "amateur" and our public image.

In my own 32 years of experience the use of these names has brought some very unusual expressions from people in government positions whom ham radio has assisted with public service events.

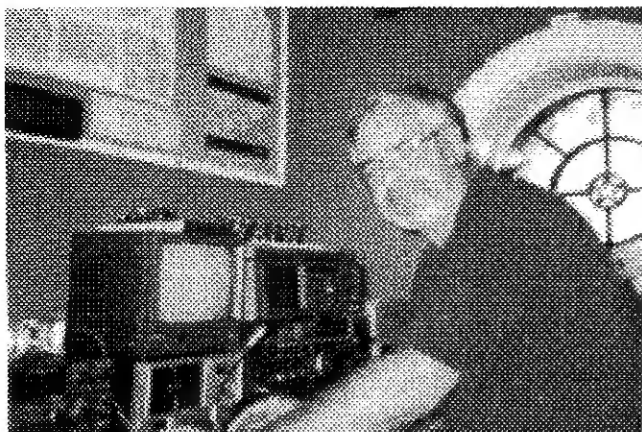
They were surprised when told "amateur" radio operators were going to assist with major events in the city of Philadelphia, e.g. the Pope's visit, the Olympic Torch run, parades and similar events.

Key government people wanted to know how "amateurs" would know what to do! Those unfamiliar with ham radio have no idea what the Amateur Radio operators of this nation do.

It is definitely an image problem based on the use of both words. Other than vague ideas concerning TVI, the general public has little knowledge about our hobby. A survey of the public's opinion and knowledge would be very interesting.

A name like "Emergency Radio Services" tells the world what we do instantly. For me, a name change would be welcomed.

from Worldradio



Jack NT9J, at a control station at W1AW



The bank of Harris radios at ARRL headquarters

## Editorial

October has certainly been an eventful month. We received word that due to antenna problems at the channel 4 tower we would have to remove our repeater from that location.

The Executive Committee (on short notice) was forced to make some decisions regarding the placement of the antenna at a new location. A site was found and letters were sent to members requesting donations to finance the move.

The donation response has been fantastic and sincerely appreciated. At this writing we have received about half of the needed amount and donations are still coming in. Our immediate concern is to raise enough money to order the hard-line so that it can be installed before the winter weather makes tower work impossible.

Changing tower locations is always a mixed blessing. For some members it means losing a part of the autopatch coverage. To others it means that they can now use the

autopatch. In either case the general coverage of the repeater should remain about the same.

I have been impressed by the attitude of members who have called regarding the move. Several also volunteered to help with setting up at the new location, building a shack, wiring etc.

On behalf of the Executive Committee I want to thank the membership for their patience, understanding, and financial support!

When we needed your help you were there!  
-NV9K

## Faster licensing

On October 24 the FCC released a 7-page Order amending its amateur rules, effective December 20, 1994, to reflect what the Commission calls "nonsubstantive procedural changes":

1. To permit electronically filed data from VECs (paper applications also will still be accepted).
2. To authorize operation as

soon as the new license data appears in the amateur service licensee data base, rather than (as now) when the license document has been delivered. Details of how the new licensee can determine his call sign will be announced later.

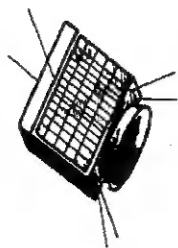
3. To add a new rules section, "Examinee Conduct," to emphasize that an examinee must comply with the instructions given by the administering VEs.

4. To treat "Technician Plus" as a license class.

5. To provide for a "renewal short-form," which the FCC says will be mailed to licensees in advance of their expiration date beginning sometime in 1995. The FCC added that renewal applications would be accepted no more than 90 days before the expiration date.

Because of the nature of these rule amendments, there is no notice or comment period required by federal law. Again, these changes do not take effect until December 20, 1994.

from the ARRL Letter 10/27/94



## DOVE IN SPACE

We've always said contests are good for Amateur Radio. During the ARRL September VHF QSO Party in early September Steve Bible, N7HPR, along with friends Greg Pool, WH6DT, and Ian Bible, KE4EAC, found a new twist to this.

The three journeyed to Fremont Peak State Park, in California, and after making 75 QSOs, they packed it in for a visit to the nearby Fremont Peak Observatory Association, for the grand opening of a new 30-inch telescope. Luckily, the sky was clear and the moon was on its way down.

Meanwhile, Ian got an idea. He tuned his handheld transceiver to the Amateur Radio DOVE satellite's downlink frequency of 145.825 and, sure enough, DOVE passed overhead around 10 PM

with a burst of packet telemetry: then the digitalkier said "This is DOVE in space."

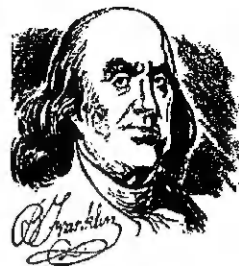
"Everybody huddled around him to hear, as all who were present were astonished that there were 'amateur' satellites in space," Steve Bible said.

One spectator exclaimed, "But aren't all satellites big and huge?" and "Who put it up in space?" N7HPR explained to him that DOVE was only nine inches square and that amateurs piggy-backed their satellites, to the nonham's amazement.

"We learned about the stars and they learned about radio," Bible, 35, said. "A fitting mix for 'amateurs' in astronomy and radio."

from the ARRL letter.

## A HAM FOR PRESIDENT?



Here are the top ten reasons a ham would make a good president:

10. The base of the thousand-foot tower in the Rose Garden becomes an important background for all presidential photos.

9. Gets to give four of his friends the really short and cool call signs, "W", "K", "N", and "A."

8. Invites high-scoring Field Day team to lunch at the White House.

7. Has the National Park Service mount a stacked pair of 80-through-10 meter Periodics on the peak of the Washington Monument.

6. Uses foreign summit meetings as an excuse to have really incredible DXpeditions.

5. Says that Detroit truly is a third-world nation, permits new country status.

4. Declares "Dayton Weekend" a national holiday.

3. Packs the Supreme Court with hams, overturning all previous tower-variance denials.

2. Signs a bill making the use of the word "destinated" a capital offense.

1. Revokes United Parcel Service's use of 220 MHz and reassigns them 27.195.

from Tuned Circuit, Utica, MI. and Worldradio

## Do you know who this club member is?



Last month's mystery club member was Dennis KB9HPQ

## Scouts JOTA

On September 15th the MARC participated in the Boy Scout Jam-boree On The Air. We set up a HF station at the Mt. Auburn Methodist Church in Stones Crossing.

While the turnout was smaller than expected, the boys (and their parents) seemed to have a good time. Several parents asked about ham radio (especially the cost)!

Many thanks to Jack NT9J and Bob N9SIU. -Dave AA9KT



# CLUB ACTIVITIES



LEFT: John Scott WM9U gave a presentation on DIGITAL SIGNAL PROCESSORS at our October meeting.

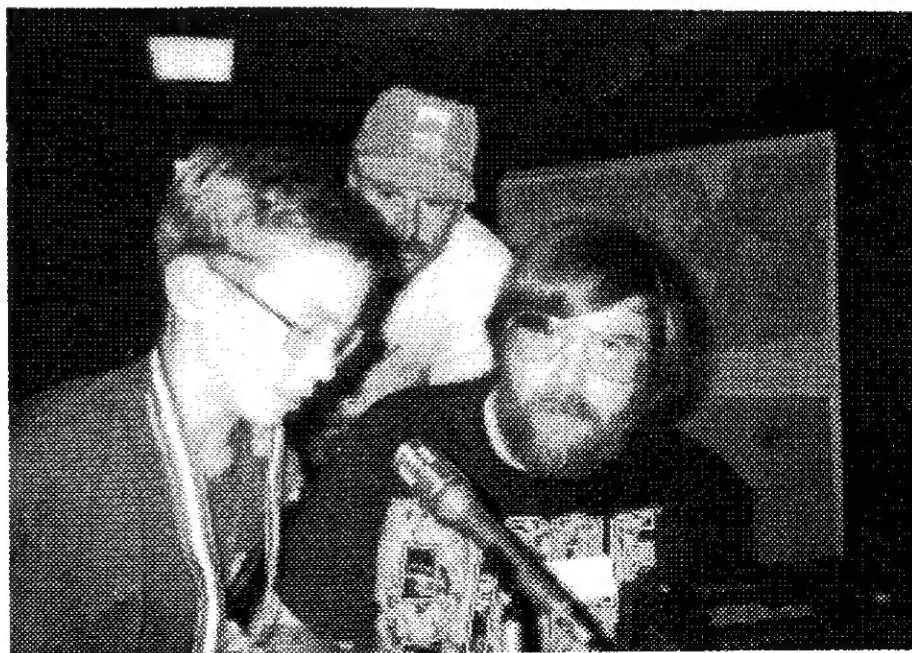
John and Charlie N9MEW are inspecting one of the DSP units that were on display at the presentation.

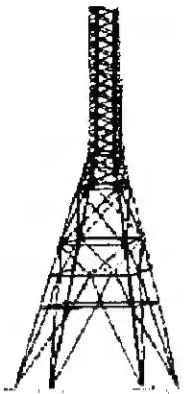
October was an active month for the Mid-State Club. This month we learned about Digital Signal Processing, worked the R.A.C.E.S. QSO Party, assisted the sheriff's department by providing extra eyes and ears against vandalism, demonstrated the pleasures of Amateur Radio to the Boy Scouts at their annual Jamboree On The Air, and Jack NT9J got to see the ARRL Headquarters! That's quite a bit under our belt before the annual Thanksgiving dinner!

RIGHT: On October 15th some of our club members journeyed to the Mt. Auburn Church at Stones Crossing to demonstrate Amateur radio to the local scouts at the annual Scout Jamboree on the Air.

Some of the scouts had an opportunity to have some "hands on" experience with ham equipment.

Dave Reneau, AA9KT is shown here with an interested scout while a parent "listens in."





## Tower update

**ATTENTION: THE TROUBLE IS IN THE CLUB REPEATER AND NOT IN YOUR SET!**

As of Saturday November 5th the MARS repeater is located in the RACES/ARES radio room. We are using the 2-meter antenna that is normally used for the EOC packet station. The antenna only has a 100 foot elevation on the Emergency Management radio tower so the range of the repeater will be limited.

This arrangement is only temporary. We are in the process of raising \$3500.00 to purchase 7/8 inch hardline, a repeater shack and necessary hardware so we can install the repeater on a new tower.

We have been given permission to place our antenna at the top of the Johnson county sheriff's tower behind the jail.

There are several advantages to this move. The site is a prime location centrally located in the county. This should provide better hand held coverage in Franklin, Edinburg and northern Johnson county. By using the better hardline, the engineering calculations indicate that we should realize a 2db gain over the former Trafalgar site.

By having a telephone line in the Franklin exchange more of our members should benefit from the autopatch.

The club was forced to abandon the WTTV tower site for safety reasons. The Channel 4 management has ordered the removal of all extra antennas and hardline from their tower.

Johnson County Emergency Management Director, Sam Williams, has pledged financial support for this project but is limited to the funds available in his current budget. As a result each Mid-state ARC member is being asked to donate \$50.00 for the new tower project. In exchange each club member will receive two years paid dues. Send all donations to: Mid-state Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 836, Franklin, In. 46131.

As soon as we have enough money the technical committee will proceed with the new tower installation. According to repeater trustee, Dave Julian, WB9YIG, we are trying to get the tower work done before the bad winter weather hits Indiana.

The formula is simple: we must acquire the money and raise the antenna to maintain the quality of coverage that we have come to know and expect. Dave will have a progress report at the November meeting. -NT9J

1913: (March 24-31) Hams provide the first large-scale emergency communications, after a severe windstorm devastated the Mid-west.



## MARS program

MARS and beyond! What sounds like a trip to a distant planet will actually be an informative talk about another world of ham radio. The November 19th MARS meeting will feature a talk about the Military Amateur Radio Service (MARS).

According to Ed Woods, WD9DVA, the MARS program is undergoing a restructuring of the service to keep pace with today's amateur radio community.

As a former Air Force radio operator Ed has spent the last fifteen years passing messages and making autopatches for servicemen around the world. He logged over 1100 hours of service in MARS during 1993.

So, join us on Saturday for a trip to MARS. -NT9J.



Mind if I ask you a question?